

INVENTORY.¹

53896 to 53908.

From Sibpur, near Calcutta, India. Seeds presented by G. G. Lane, curator, Royal Botanic Garden, through Lieut. Col. A. T. Gage, director, Botanical Survey of India. Received July 7, 1921.

The following vegetables, requested for experimental work on food for diabetics, are used for food in India according to Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India, from which the notes that follow are adapted.

53896. AMARANTHUS GANGETICUS L. Amaranthaceæ. Amaranth.

A small annual, common in Bengal and Assam and now extensively cultivated in many parts of the world as a green vegetable. The leaves and tender stalks are made into a curry by all classes of natives. The young stems are sometimes used as a substitute for asparagus on the English table. (*Vol. I, p. 212.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 34457.

53897. AMARANTHUS PANICULATUS L. Amaranthaceæ. Amaranth.

A heavily fruiting, short-season crop, one of the most important sources of food to the hill tribes of India. Although, no doubt, the young tops are to a certain extent eaten as a vegetable, the small seed is the product for which it is cultivated. (*Vol. I, p. 211.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 44178.

53898. CHENOPODIUM ALBUM L. Chenopodiaceæ.

A plant common throughout the tropic and temperate Himalayas, ascending to 12 000 feet from Kashmir to Sikkim and to 14,000 feet in Tibet; it is general in the plains of India. This plant is cultivated by the hill tribes on the higher western Himalayas, and the wild plant is also regularly collected and eaten as a potherb and green vegetable. The seed of the cultivated plant is the principal product, but the leaves and twigs are also eaten as a spinach. It is entirely a rain crop, and attains a height of 6 feet. The leaves are rich in mineral matter, particularly potash salts. They likewise contain a considerable quantity of albuminoids and other compounds of nitrogen. The seeds are said to be superior to buckwheat. (*Vol. 2, p. 265.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 51214.

53899 to 53901. CUCUMIS MELO L. Cucurbitaceæ. Muskmelon.

53899. Sweet melon. An herbaceous climber, said to be native to northwestern India, Baluchistan, and west tropical Africa; extensively cultivated for its fruit in the sandy basins of rivers. The fruit is round, green or yellowish, the skin covered with a network of raised brown lines. The fruit is eaten uncooked in a variety of

¹ It should be understood that the varietal names of fruits, vegetables, cereals, and other plants used in these inventories are those which the material bore when received by the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction and, further, that the printing of such names here does not constitute their official publication and adoption in this country. As the different varieties are studied, their identity fully established, their entrance into the American trade forecast, and the use of varietal names for them in American literature becomes necessary, the foreign varietal designations appearing in these inventories will in many cases undoubtedly be changed by the specialists interested in the various groups of plants and the forms of the names brought into harmony with recognized American codes of nomenclature.